

MS ENO 47 (STXX) S4A \*28/11/83\* \*20:50\*  
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CO-VE BORDER

STATE

83 2755925 SCP

NC 2755925

TOR: 282251Z NOV 83

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 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8496  
 RUEHBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7140  
 RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 1441  
 RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1689  
 RUEHMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 1797  
 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1578  
 RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1450  
 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2134  
 RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 5904  
 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1616  
 RUEOHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PA  
 BT  
 EZ1:

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EZ2:

E.O. 12356: DECL: 11/25/89  
 TAGS: PREL, PINS, SNAR, CO, UY, VE, XM, XR  
 SUBJECT: LUSINCHI PRESS CONFERENCE: FOREIGN POLICY AND  
 A COUPLE OF DOMESTIC ISSUES  
 1. (U) SUMMARY: ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, AD PRESIDENTIAL  
 CANDIDATE JAIME LUSINCHI HELD HIS FOURTH WEEKLY CAMPAIGN  
 PRESS CONFERENCE. WHILE TOUCHING ON A COUPLE OF DOMESTIC  
 ISSUES (DRUGS, BTW), LUSINCHI DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY  
 WITH QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY. HE CALLED FOR DEMOCRACY  
 IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR  
 CONTADORA; VOWED TO RESOLVE THE COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA MARINE/  
 SUBMARINE DISPUTE; PLEDGED TO RENEGOTIATE VENEZUELA'S  
 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOREIGN DEBT; AND DEFINED A LUSINCHI  
 GOVERNMENT FOREIGN POLICY IN BROADLY NATIONALISTIC TERMS.  
 END SUMMARY.  
 2. (U) AT HIS FOURTH WEEKLY CAMPAIGN PRESS CONFERENCE  
 (NOVEMBER 25) AD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JAIME LUSINCHI  
 DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY

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HE DID IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, ADDRESS THE DOMESTIC ISSUES OF DRUGS AND THE BTV. BESIDES MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS, THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT CORRESPONDENTS FROM VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT LUSINCHI PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE PRIMARILY FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS.

3. (U) DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA: LUSINCHI POINTED OUT THE NEED "FOR A DEMOCRATIZATION OF CENTRAL AMERICA". HE STATED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA IS AS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC AS THAT OF GUATEMALA" AND CALLED UPON BOTH TO INITIATE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS. REMINDING THE PRESS THAT VENEZUELA HAD AIDED THE SANDINISTA STRUGGLE AGAINST SOMOZA IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE REMARKED THAT IN NOT FULFILLING ITS PROMISE TO DEMOCRATIZE NICARAGUA THE SANDINISTA REGIME WAS LOSING CREDIBILITY WITH ITS OWN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA.

4. (U) CONTADORA: LUSINCHI REITERATED HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA AND EMPHASIZED THAT ITS PEACE EFFORTS HAD PREVENTED TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA FROM ESCALATING INTO MAJOR ARMED CONFLICT.

5. (U) GULF OF VENEZUELA MARINE/SUBMARINE "DIFERENDO" WITH COLOMBIA: VOWING TO RESOLVE THE GULF OF VENEZUELA MARINE/SUBMARINE DISPUTE WITH COLOMBIA DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION, LUSINCHI NEVERTHELESS ADDED THAT "VENEZUELA HAS HISTORIC AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS TO JUSTIFY" ITS CLAIMS TO A ZONE WHICH IS "STRATEGICALLY VITAL" TO IT. UNDERSCORING THE SHARED BOLIVARIAN TRADITIONS AND THE MUTUAL "GEOPOLITICAL AND HISTORIC" CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWO NATIONS, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE "DIFERENDO" WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A MANNER BOTH JUST AND CONDUCTIVE TO THE CONTINUED "FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY OF BOTH COUNTRIES."

6. (U) FOREIGN DEBT: LUSINCHI PLEDGED THAT THE RENEGOTIATION OF VENEZUELA'S PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOREIGN DEBT WILL BE HIS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AFTER WINNING THE DECEMBER 4 ELECTION. (COMMENT: THIS ITEM WAS ONLY REPORTED IN CARACAS'S ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY. THE SPANISH LANGUAGE DAILIES IGNORED IT COMPLETELY.)

7. (U) FOREIGN POLICY UNDER A LUSINCHI GOVERNMENT: WHEN QUERIED AS TO THE FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION OF A LUSINCHI GOVERNMENT, THE AD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DEFINED THAT POLICY FROM A BROADLY NATIONALISTIC PERSPECTIVE. HE SAID

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